

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

MONTHLY MEETING

MAY 12, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Coney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yeager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Brekke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Verhei	<input type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Adam John	<input type="checkbox"/> John Holecek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues, Member-At-Large
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Tu	<input type="checkbox"/> John Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown, Vice-	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey Jernigan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Candace Inagi	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

Excused Absence Joanne Brekke, Adam John, Tom Rasmussen, John Holecek, Lisa Yeager, Alexandra Tu

Guests Jean Mathisen, Art Mussman, Will Parry, Kate Slaminko, Lee Harned

ADS Staff Pamela Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Marcy Kubbs, Margaret Casey, Andrea Yip

United Way Staff

King County Staff Linda Wells

MINUTES

Don Moreland, Chair convened the Advisory Council (AC) meeting at 12:00 p.m. and invited everyone attending to introduce themselves.

PROGRAM : REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICAN'S ACT (OAA)

Pamela Piering, Director of Aging and Disability Services, provided a presentation on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act covering a number of key points.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

History

Highlights of the history of the OAA include the following:

- ❑ 1965 Lyndon Johnson signs OAA which develops aging infrastructure nationwide including Administration on Aging (AoA) and grants to states for planning & services
- ❑ 1967-73 State infrastructure expands, requiring increased state planning and development of “comprehensive coordinated service system” with AAA’s
- ❑ 1973 Creation of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to:
 - Develop coordinated, comprehensive services
 - Stimulate expansion of services
 - Serve as advocates for older adults
- ❑ 1972-78 Specific initiatives added:
 - Nutrition program & home-delivered meals
 - Senior Centers
 - Home care
 - Community service employment
- ❑ 1978 Elder rights focus begins with Long-term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program
- ❑ 1984 AAAs facilitate case management
- ❑ 1987 Title III restructured with separate authorization for services (In-home, LTC Ombudsman, health promotion, etc.)
- ❑ 1992 Title VII – Elder Rights protection added
- ❑ 2000 National family caregiver support program & Title V restructuring
- ❑ 2006 Appropriation for OAA a slight reduction from ’05 funding
- ❑ OAA to be reauthorized in 2006 for five years - #1 goal of White House Conference on Aging

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Goals for the Reauthorization of the OAA

n4a goals for the OAA include the following:

- ❑ Strengthen support for Health Promotion, Senior Mobility, Elder Abuse Prevention & Aging Network
- ❑ Increase funding & maximize flexibility
- ❑ Add two new titles:
 - Facilitate Community Preparedness to Meet Rapidly Growing Aging Needs
 - Strengthen Single Point of Entry with “Aging & Disability Resources Centers” in each AAA

Administration on Aging (AoA) Goals

AoA's proposal for the reauthorization of OAA includes:

- ❑ Permit states to consolidate AAA system to single statewide planning & service area
- ❑ Allow states to expand cost-sharing to more OAA services & establish fee-for-services
- ❑ Repeal AAA cost-sharing waiver- allow states to require fee-for-services
- ❑ Create Choices for Independence Program
- ❑ Provide services in manner offering individual maximum choice and control

2007 House Reauthorization Bill

The House reauthorization bill called the "Senior Independence Act" (H.R. 5293) introduced earlier this month includes a number of elder-friendly items including:

- Enhances support of older adults through community-based services
- Promotes evidence-based health promotion & disease prevention program
- Excludes President's proposed designation of single state planning & service area
- Excludes President's fee-for-service system
- Permits grants to AAA's to plan for growing needs of older adults. (Title IV)
- Allows older caregiver of adult disabled children to qualify for National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) programs.
- Title V – Senior Community Service & Employment Program
 - ❑ Maintains community service & job training
 - ❑ Retains age 55 eligibility
 - ❑ Allows on the job & literacy training
 - ❑ Limits average participation to 2 yrs
 - ❑ Increases minimum placement rate to 30% over 5 years

2007 Senate Reauthorization Bill

The draft "Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006" was just released. Language is provided for all titles except for Title V which is still under development. n4a is supportive of this bill with a few exceptions. Key elements of the bill include:

- ❑ Establishes Office of Elder Abuse Prevention & Services to carry out elder justice activities
- ❑ Mirrors House approach incorporating "Choices for Independence" themes
- ❑ Allows older caregivers of adult children with disabilities to be served under the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)
- ❑ Encourages contributions for those over 200% of poverty level
- ❑ n4a generally applauds the draft but has concerns particularly regarding maintaining chain of accountability

President's 2007 Budget for OAA

The President's budget as it relates to the OAA reduces the AoA budget by 2% or \$28 Million. More specifically, it provides the following:

- ❑ Increases:
 - Title IV Aging Research & Training -\$10M
 - Program Administration - \$685,000
 - New "Choices for Independence" funding

- ❑ Flat Funding for:
 - Title III Supportive Services,
 - Title VI Native American Grants & Caregiver Support
 - Aging Network Support
- ❑ Decreases:
 - Most programs lose \$1-2M
 - Title V employment cut \$44M
- ❑ Eliminates:
 - Title III Preventive Health Services
 - Alzheimer's Initiative

President's Budget for OAA – Current Status

Currently the Clinton - Collins Appropriation Letter is being circulated for signatures. It urges Senate Appropriations Committee to restore aging-related funding to '06 levels for:

- ❑ Alzheimer's Disease Demo Grants
- ❑ Alzheimer's 24/7 Contact Center
- ❑ National Family Caregiver Support Program
- ❑ Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Director's Washington, D.C. Visit

The first week of May Pam was in Washington, D.C. for n4a meetings and was able to attend some legislative hearings. From her perspective, the three key issues for the aging network are:

- 1) Reauthorization of the OAA
- 2) Budget appropriation for the OAA
- 3) Earmarking \$42 Million for AAA's and State Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) out of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) budget for information and assistance to Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

Pam reported recent developments related to Medicare Part D include the following:

- 1) The Administration announced it would allow the low-income subsidy individuals to enroll past the May 15th deadline without penalty.
- 2) There is a push, supported by Senators Murray and Cantwell, to move the deadline back as many have yet to enroll in the program.

In general Pam's perspective on the House and Senate bills released this month is that the aging network has, "dodged a bullet". While they could more strongly support the n4a goals for OAA reauthorization, we are fortunate many of the potentially damaging elements of the AoA proposal were eliminated. Also, while funding was not increased, it has not for the most part, been reduced.

Pam ended her presentation sharing the following quote from the n4a highlighting the importance of the OAA and the services it authorizes. "These challenges will only grow. This year, the first of the 77 million baby boomers will be eligible for OAA services. In 2030, one in five Americans will be over the age of 65."

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the April 14, 2006 minutes be approved as written.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Sponsor's Meeting

Margaret Casey, ADS Staff, reported this month the Sponsors Working Session focused on Special Needs Transportation. Federal regulations require the development of a regional plan for special needs transportation in order for transportation providers to qualify for other federal transportation funding. The various players in the regional transportation system need to collaborate in the development of this plan. While there have been many challenges, there has also been some progress.

Planning & Allocation Committee

No report

Outreach & Advocacy Committee / Health Care Task Force

Officers of the committee and task force reported on several items.

1) Legislative Forum

Timmie Faghin reported that the forum will take place at Seattle Center on August 23, 2006. The theme will be "Supporting Vulnerable Adults – How Do Federal & State Budgets Reflect our Values?" The committee is working on the program.

2) Councilmember Tom Rasmussen's Staff Visit

Two members of Councilmember Rasmussen's staff, Michael Fong and Traci Ratzliff reported to the committee on their research about Senior Centers. The first step of the process is to survey senior centers in our community to learn more about their structure, the services offered, and funding sources. Later, an advisory task force will be created to help develop a plan to support these programs. Councilmember Rasmussen will be looking to the Advisory Council for advocacy and input.

3) **Pam Piering** reported two issues the Eldercare Alliance supported this year that were not acted upon by the legislature have re-emerged – funding for Respite Care and Information & Assistance (I&A) expansion. W4a is working to get funding for these items in the Governor's budget. In light of the Governor's response to the White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) resolutions, w4a is hopeful they will be included.

4) **Will Parry** reported that there will be a meeting on the WHCoA and healthcare from 9:30 am-2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 31st, at the South Park Machinists Hall.

5) **Thank you to Peter Greenfield**

Action: It was moved / seconded and passed that the Advisory Council send thank you letters to both Peter Greenfield and Columbia Legal Services thanking Peter for his leadership on two issues: 1) Public Guardianship; and, 2) Medicaid estate recovery for same sex couples.

6) Letter of Support

Action: It was moved / seconded and passed that the Advisory Council send a letter of support for a technology grant application being written to pilot a system streamlining appointments for Access and Medicaid trips.

Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

Councilmember Rasmussen reported on a number of items including:

1) **Senior Centers** - Councilmember Rasmussen reports he and his staff are touring Senior Centers to inventory services offered, agency hours and funding support. A report will be prepared followed by a short-term proposal for 2007-2008. The next step would be development of a long-range plan with Advisory Council input to determine the role of Senior Centers in our community.

Councilmember Rasmussen is wondering about the possibility of including funding for Senior Centers in the Park's Levy Proposal, since they already offer a Senior Program and have existing infrastructure. Park's Department facilities are often closed however, during hours that Senior Centers operate. Increase funding would be needed to allow these facilities to expand their hours for senior activities. Figures on the amount needed to increase hours should be available from the Park's Department. Councilmember Rasmussen suggested the Park's Senior Program Advisory Committee formally request the Parks Department for increased hours. The Department could then request that of the Mayor. If it's included in the Mayor's budget, it is likely to be supported by the City Council.

Communications Committee

Timmie Faghin thanked Maria Langlais for the great job she has done overseeing the development of the Seniors Digest every month.

State Council on Aging

No report

Universal Design Coalition (UD)

Margaret Casey, ADS staff, passed out a notice that the Seattle Channel has a copy of the recently completed video on a local Universal Design project. Also, on Tuesday, May 23rd from 8:30-3:30 pm there will be a public event sponsored by the Puget Sound Regional Council on their Vision 2020+20 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Margaret encouraged members to participate in the event to advocate for senior friendly environment, particularly as it relates to transportation and economic development.

NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence

Don Moreland reported that the Advisory Council received a letter from Councilmember Jean Godden thanking the Advisory Council for its comments on the Comcast Cable franchise agreement.

2006 Nominating Committee Election

Candidates were nominated from the floor, two for each of the Sponsoring agencies. The successful candidates were: Larry Verhei – King County; Dr. Robert Gross – City of Seattle; Phil Pitruzzello – United Way.

Proposal to Extend Length of Advisory Council Meetings

Don Moreland proposal to extend the length of Advisory Council meetings by a half hour was discussed. Don reported on the e-mail he received from John Barnett on the topic.

Action: It was moved / seconded and passed that the Advisory Council could extend the meeting time one-half hour when additional time is needed.

Director's Report

Pamela Piering reported on a number of items to the Advisory Council.

- 1) Pam invited Linda Wells, the new King County Aging Program Manager to speak to the Advisory Council. Besides reporting on an exciting first week on the job, Linda shared the following:
 - a) One-third of her job will be devoted to Special Needs Transportation. She will be meeting with King County Metro to develop an internal King County proposal.
 - b) The contracts she manages are primarily for senior centers and adult day health program in unincorporated King County. Funding is flat for these programs though there is some Veteran's Administration and Family Service money available to them.
 - c) She is also busy working on the appointment of individuals to the Advisory Council.
- 2) Senator Patty Murray will hold a press conference at the Ballard Community Center next Monday, May 15th on Medicare Part D. Pam and Don Moreland will be on the panel of respondents.
- 3) Pam has met with members of the Mayor's office. Apparently the Mayor's senior staff is considering developing an initiative focusing on Senior issues.
- 4) ADS has been working with Native American providers to develop a coordinated plan to increase health promotion among Urban Indian elders. Seattle's Urban Indians are not a federally recognized tribe like the Snoqualmie and Muckleshoot tribes. We also have formal agreements with the recognized tribes. ADS has agreed to designate one case manager for six to eight Muckleshoot elders receiving services in the Medicaid program.

5) Kinship Caregiving – Over 30 key youth and family serving non-profit and public agencies met to collaborate in a more comprehensive way to meet the special needs of kinship families and caregivers. She mentioned a program on the east coast that created housing for “grand-families”.

Don Moreland complimented Pam on the excellent job she does educating legislative staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Note new meeting location!

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, June 9, 2006

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

1st Floor Conference Room

Central building, 810 Third Ave

Seattle, WA 98104

www.adsadvisorycouncil.org

Midge Levy, Secretary _____